

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06329 281109Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4739

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLICY IN ANGOLA

1. AT LUNCH YESTERDAY (OCT 27) WITH NATO AMBASSADORS, ANTUNES SAID CRESPO'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE THREE ANGOLAN FACTIONS HAD FAILED AS RESULT OF MPLA REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE. GOP WAS NOW EXAMINING ITS ALTERNATIVES. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IT TRANSFER POWER TO ONE OF THE MOVEMENTS, NOR WAS IT CONTEMPLATING TRYING TO FORM A COALITION OF TWO MOVEMENTS.

2. ANTUNES SAID HIS PROPOSAL TO GOP WAS THAT SOVEREIGNTY BE TRANSFERRED SIMPLY TO "PEOPLE OF ANGOLA". I ASKED HIM WHAT POSITION GOP MIGHT TAKE ON DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION IF, FOLLOWING SUCH A TRANSFER, MPLA WERE TO DECLARE ITSELF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT. ANTUNES SAID HE WOULD ARGUE IN FAVOR OF NOT RECOGNIZING ANY FACTION UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIED. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE MPLA BUT HOPED THESE WOULD BE RELATIVELY FEW IN NUMBER.

3. FOLLOWING THE LUNCH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN AND I CALLED ON MINISTER OF COOPERATION VITOR CRESPO WHO HAD

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PAGE 02 LISBON 06329 281109Z

JUST RETURNED FROM ANGOLA. CRESPO ELABORATED ON THE TRANS-

FER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO THE PEOPLE THESIS. HE REAFFIRMED THE NOVEMBER 11 DATE AND STRESSED THAT PORTUGAL WILL CONSIDER ANGOLA ONE NATION. THE ALVOR ACCORD SAID THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN VESTED IN ALL THREE MOVEMENTS. SINCE GOP INTENDED TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE ALVOR ACCORD IT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ANY ONE MOVEMENT. HE HOPED THAT THE RECENT OAU REPORT, WHICH HE HAD CONVEYED TO MPLA, WOULD HELP DISSUADE AFRICAN COUNTRIES FROM RECOGNITION OF MPLA.

4. CRESPO ACKNOWLEDGED MPLA AND PCP WERE CLOSELY LINKED, BUT HE DISPUTED THE THESIS THAT ANGOLA WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THAT ON HIS RECENT VISIT HE HAD FOUND THE MPLA SOMEWHAT LESS RIGID IN ITS ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDES. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE GREATER MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE FNLA.
CARLUCCI

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